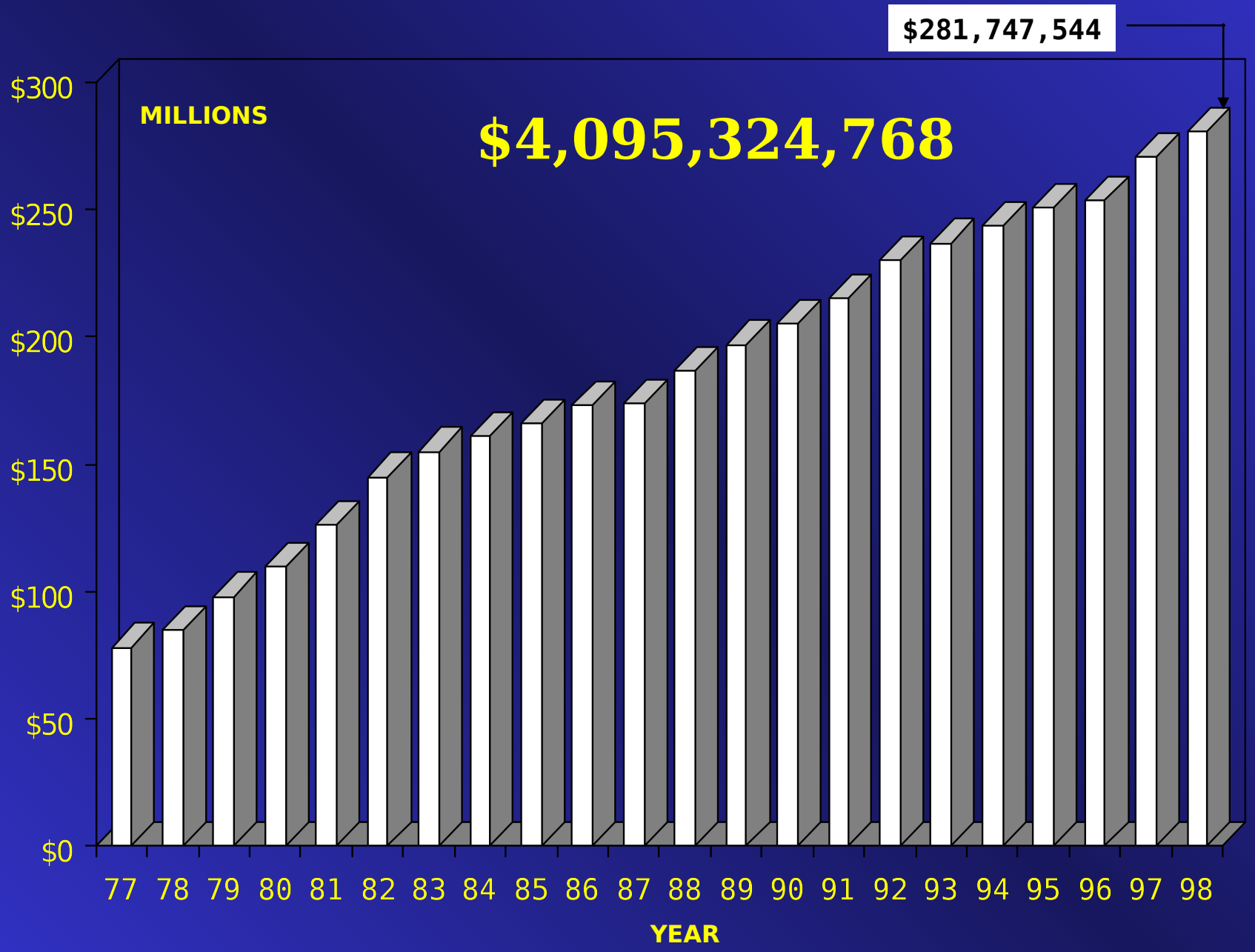
Hearing Conservation

Quick Brief

Noise-induced hearing loss is the result of Peace Time Training.

How much has peace time training hearing loss cost us in the past 20 years?

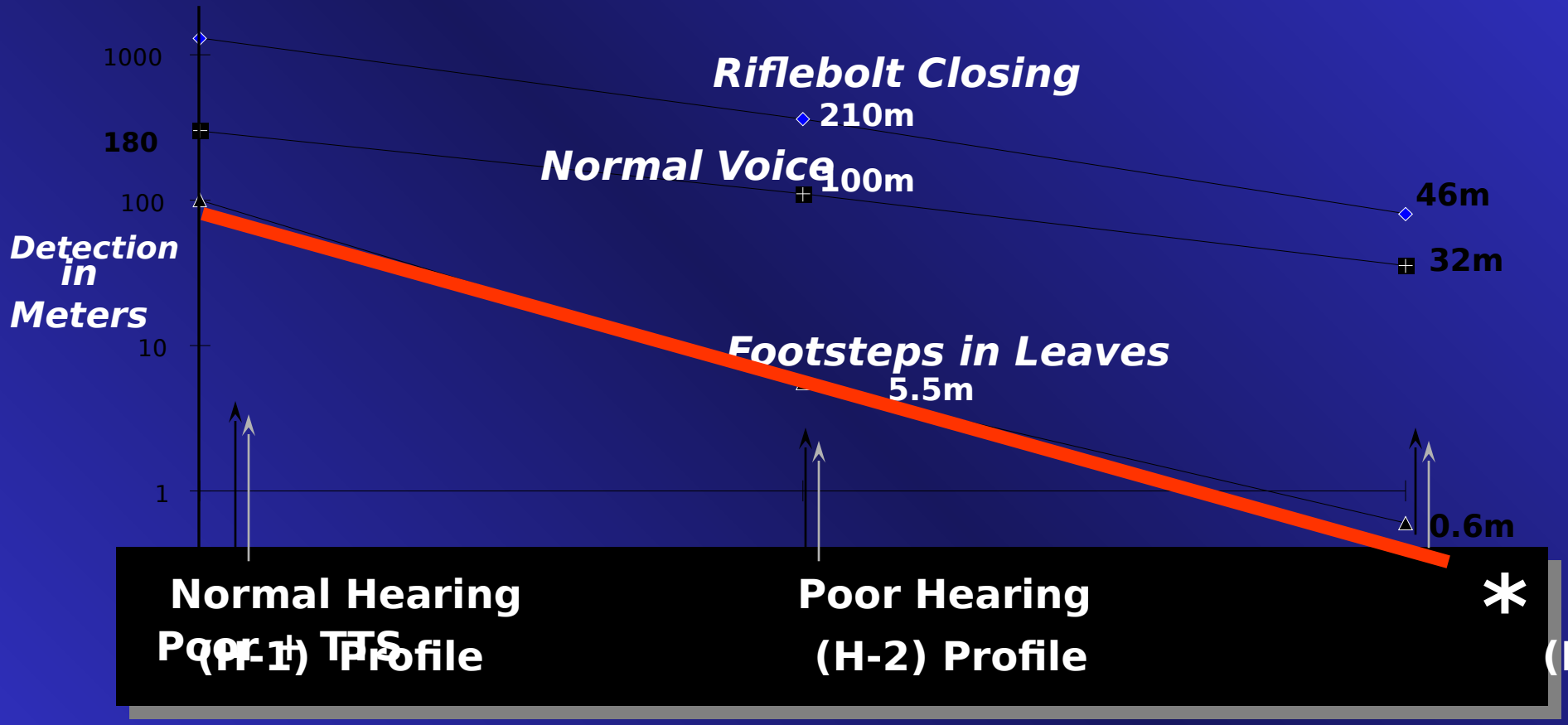
Figure 3. Cost of Hearing Loss for All Veterans (Primary Disability Only)
1977-1997 Total = $4,095,324,768



Why is Hearing Loss Prevention a significant Combat Readiness Concern?

Do you want soldiers to hear the enemy sneaking up on their position at **100 meters** or **6 meters**?

Detection of Sound
by
Hearing Ability



Detection distance decreases rapidly as hearing loss increa

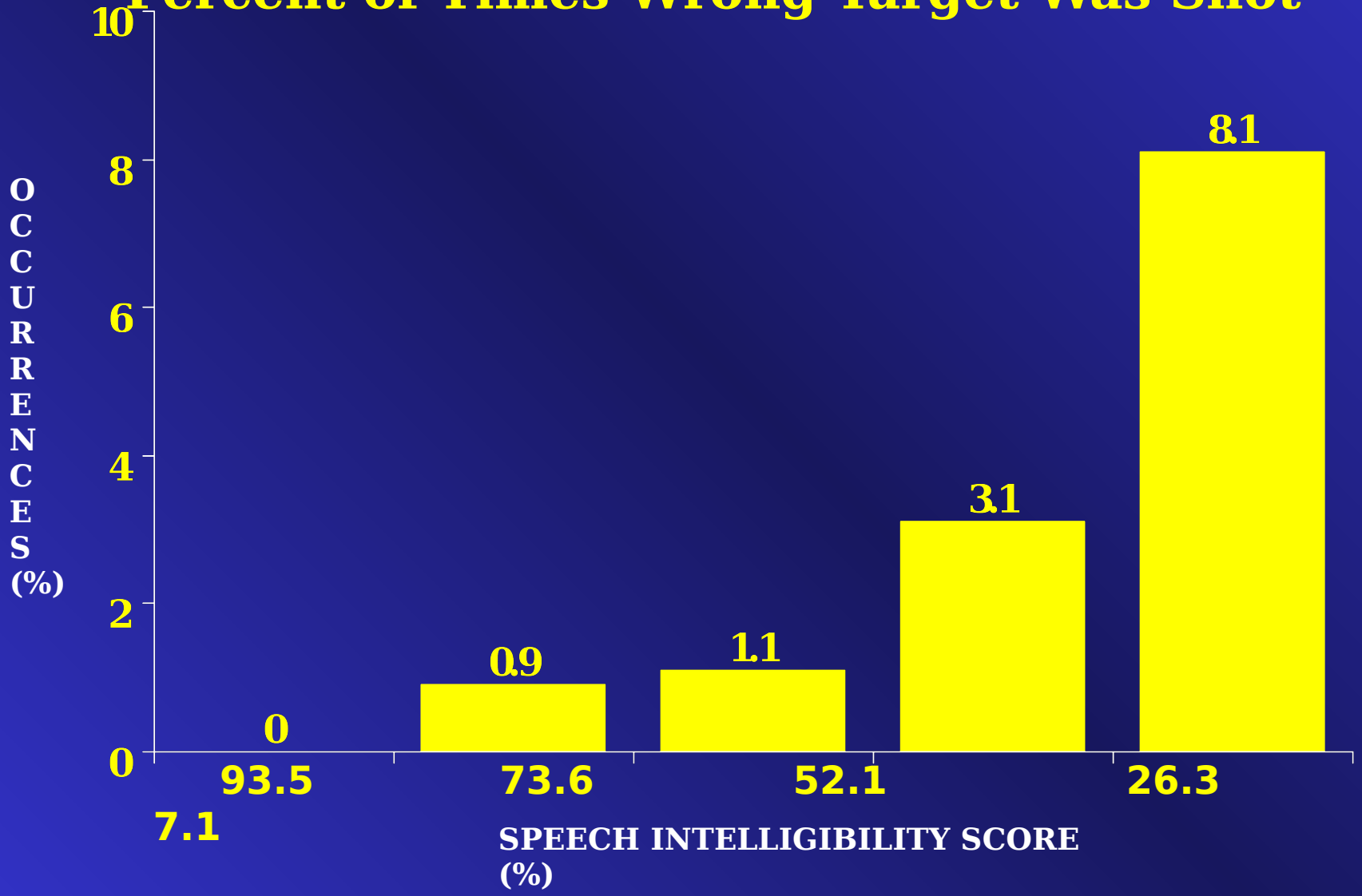
Price et al. '89

* *TTS - Temporary Threshold Sh*

Hearing Loss causes a loss in speech intelligibility or clarity. Words become distorted.

What is the effect of distorted speech on shooting the wrong target, e.g., **fratricide**?

Percent of Times Wrong Target Was Shot



Conclusions

- The cost of hearing loss for the military now exceeds 4 billion dollars, an expense that is *preventable*.
- Hearing loss is a potential (and likely) cause for ‘friendly fire’ incidents and increases risk in all combat environments.
- Hearing loss causes difficulty in understanding speech and contributes to a poorer quality of life – ***permanently***.